

Competition to be held in June

Washington, **Apr 7** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence congratulated the cities of Richmond and Fort Wayne for being named finalists in



the National Civic League's 60th Annual All-America City Awards Competition.

"The National Civic League has recognized what I and so many other Hoosiers have known for years - that Indiana boasts some of best communities nationwide. The high quality of Richmond and Fort Wayne's civic community is a testament to the people and local leaders of Eastern Indiana," Pence said.

"I look forward to the competition this summer and am confident that our cities will be highly competitive."

Background from The National Civic League:

"An All-America City has a proven capacity for community-based problem solving, grassroots civic engagement and cooperation between sectors (public, private and nonprofit). To become a finalist, each participant completed an application documenting three community projects that address local challenges such as job creation/economic development, environmental sustainability, neighborhood revitalization and disaster recovery."

The 2009 finalists are:
Phoenix, Arizona
Windsor Heights, Iowa
Toledo, Ohio

Fort Smith, Arkansas
Wichita, Kansas
Wooster, Ohio
Inglewood, California
Pocomoke City, Maryland
Toledo, Oregon
Rancho Cordova, California
Rockville, Maryland
Erie, Pennsylvania
Windsor, Colorado
Salisbury, Maryland
Providence, Rhode Island
Tampa, Florida
Somerville, Massachusetts
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Bensenville, Illinois
Belton, Missouri
Rowlett, Texas
Carbondale, Illinois
Albany, New York
Caroline County, Virginia
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Benson, North Carolina
Richmond, Indiana
Kinston, North Carolina
South Bend, Indiana
Clinton, North Carolina
Des Moines, Iowa
Statesville, North Carolina

During the three-day competition, a delegation from each community will present its challenges and solutions to a jury of national experts from across the United States. At least one community project must focus on the needs of young people.

The 2009 awards program will feature Innovation Forums to promote peer-to-peer dialogues among the finalist communities and regional and national leaders. Topical dialogues and panel discussions on "green" solutions, immigrant integration, race relations, and economic recovery strategies will be featured, along with a planning session for future AAC alumni activities.